

Sammamish High School Improvement Plan
Bellevue School District
2008-09

Sammamish High School has established **Scholarship, Honor** and **Service** as its core academic values. These values are based on our belief that a rigorous, college preparatory education prepares our students for success in college and provides them multiple choices when they graduate from our school. Research shows that increasing the academic achievement of all students requires multiple approaches that are designed and aligned to address specific areas for academic improvement.

We have evidence, based on staff surveys and our own monitoring, as well as on required school district practices, that our school operates following characteristics of high-performing schools:

- ✓ Clear and shared focus
- ✓ High standards and expectations
- ✓ Effective school leadership
- ✓ Supportive learning environment
- ✓ High levels of community and parent involvement
- ✓ Frequent monitoring of teaching and learning
- ✓ Focused professional development

Our improvement plan for this year that is based on student data, specifically the data that suggests that:

- *A significant percentage of Sammamish students are earning low grades in core academic classes and not making standard on the WASL in reading, writing, math and science.*
- *Sammamish did not make AYP.*

Our specific goals and action plan for this year support the goals of:

- The state's Essential Academic Learning goals: to provide students with opportunities to develop the knowledge to read with comprehension, write with skill and communicate effectively; know and apply principles of math, science, social studies, arts, health, and fitness; think analytically, form reasoned judgments and solve problems; and understand the importance of work and how performance affects future career opportunities.
- Continuous improvement of student achievement consistent with the state's essential academic learning requirements; and
- Non-academic student learning related to leadership, public speaking, teamwork and interpersonal relationships.
- Target our instruction in order to get students to access and be successful in higher level course work.

Goal: Improve the core academic class grades and performance on WASL of all students.

Actions:

- The school's ongoing professional development will focus on utilizing DDA (district data analyzer) to examine in detail students performance, assess the effectiveness of the curriculum and develop strategies to target areas of weakness adapting curriculum to that affect in an ongoing manner.
- Students who struggle in Reading, Writing, Math and/or Science are supported during the school day with a Reading, English Seminar or Math/Science Support class. These classes are taught by teachers in the Language Arts and Math department. These classes focus on pre-teaching, intentional re-teaching, and skill development. Student success in the class will be determined by their grades in their Math and/or Language Arts class; a 'B' grade or higher is considered an indicator of success.
- Use Bellevue School Foundations "Bridging the Gap" Grant to develop and implement "Starting Strong Program" at Sammamish.
- Most teachers participate in the ongoing development and refinement of Bellevue School District's Curriculum Web.
- Sammamish offers after school support in Math, English and Science through our Totem Reach program that targets struggling students and is available for any student who needs assistance.
- Sammamish staff has continued participate in Randy Sprick's Safe and Civil School's program. This has led to increased consistency of expectations for students in all areas of the school, especially in the expectation that students are to be kept in class as much as possible so as not to disturb their learning or the learning environment of others.
- Sammamish is entering the fifth year of the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program. AVID helps students develop skills for academic success including note-taking, test preparation, questioning, reading and goal setting.
- Sammamish has an established Link Crew program to develop the leadership skills of about sixty of the 11th and 12th grade students and provide additional support to all ninth grade students.
- VIBES mentors to work with specific students during elective periods and after school.
- Sammamish's chapter of the National Honor Society encourages and recognizes the academic achievement and community service of its students.
- Sammamish has implemented the Collection of Evidence (COE) for senior students who have yet to pass the Writing and/or Reading WASL.

Additional actions for ESL students:

- ESL case manager has one release period to oversee ESL students' progress in regular education classrooms and to assist teachers in scaffolding instruction for ESL students.

- Staff development opportunities regarding ESL-specific instructional strategies are covered during staff meetings and on specific early-release Wednesday afternoons for staff.

Additional actions for special education students:

- Ongoing analysis of WASL data and classroom assessments, specific areas in which Special Education students are experiencing difficulty.
- Researched-based curriculum designed to support specially designed instruction in reading, writing and math.
- WINN reading software program available for use with students: Allows students' textbooks to be scanned into a computer so that students can hear and see the text read line by line.
- Case Managers oversee Special Education students' progress in regular education classrooms. Targeted staff development regarding appropriate accommodations/modifications is provided through staff meetings and specific early release Wednesdays.
- Self-advocacy/social skill training by counselors.
- Sammamish Guidance Team will be more involved in determining which students should be assessed using the portfolio alternative assessment.

Technology and Learning:

As a school district, we use computers as tools to support student learning, in the same way we use lab equipment, graphing calculators, or library resources. In addition, in some of our technical courses, technology is a subject worthy of study on its own, for example, in computer essentials, web design and computer networking.

Our school has two computer labs for use by subject area classes such as art, health, math, science, and English. In these classes, computers are used primarily for word processing and Internet research. We also have a computer lab for use in career and technical courses. In addition, there are computers in each classroom. The ratio of computers to students is 1:3.

In our school, general computer technology is used for keyboarding, word processing, and student presentations using Microsoft PowerPoint software. Mobile labs, which are coming with the current modernization project, will make the technology more accessible to all students especially during writing and keyboarding lessons, as well as when students are being taught about new software applications.

Advanced applications of technology use at Sammamish occur in our Digital Video/Audio lab and our Graphics Production lab. Each lab has its own set of computers, dedicated to the respective curriculum. Additionally, students use computer lab technology for courses in Computer Visual Art, Computer Illustration, Photography, Journalism, and Web Design. Our science classes also make use of specialized digital technology in the conduct of some experiments.

In the Learning Resource Center, students access district and school data bases for books, periodicals and other resources for projects, reports, and for their personal reading needs.